

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)

Petition for Declaratory Ruling that AT&T's)
Phone-to-Phone IP Telephony Services Are)
Exempt from Access Charges)

WC 02-361

**REPLY COMMENTS OF THE
COMPETITIVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION**

The Competitive Telecommunications Association ("CompTel") submits these replies to comments filed in response to AT&T Corp.'s ("AT&T") petition for a declaratory ruling that its phone-to-phone IP telephony services are exempt from access charges. CompTel is supportive of AT&T's petition, and the comments of many parties, on two important issues.

First, AT&T's petition demonstrates the urgent need for the Commission to address the many outstanding issues related to voice over Internet protocol ("VoIP") communications, intercarrier compensation, and, possibly, universal service.¹ CompTel concurs with many commenters that the Commission's pending intercarrier compensation proceeding is the correct forum to resolve the many regulatory issues surrounding VoIP-based phone-to-phone communications.

Second, AT&T's petition highlights the need for the Commission to affirmatively

¹ Comments of WorldCom, pp.6-9; Comments of SBC at 18; Comments of Global Crossing, pp. 5-7.

enforce its own rules, and to not, passively, encourage the lawless disrespect of the FCC's existing precedent and rules. In this respect, CompTel agrees with commenter Net2Phone and "urges the Commission to affirm its existing policy to state that carriers cannot engage in self-help by imposing access charges on VoIP and IP telephony services."²

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission should grant the petition of AT&T for a declaratory ruling.

Respectfully submitted,

_____/s/_____
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² Comments of Net2Phone at 2, see also, Comments of WorldCom, pp. 2-5, Comments of Global Crossing, pp. 13-15.